

THE COLUMNS



By Pupils; For Pupils | HSD's Newsletter: Issue 151 **Special Edition: New Chapters**

Photo - Ruby McNair

151 - The original generation of Pokémon (Kanto) had 151 Pokémon.

The Americans are coming; the Americans are coming! As of now, The Columns is now under a new regime with myself as editor. I have been very excited to lead The Columns for a long time now. It feels like yesterday I wrote my first article, but here I am now writing my first 'Editor's Note.' I know I have big shoes to fill due to the hard work and dedication of all the previous editors, but I'm looking forward to introducing innovative ideas and add to the publication they've built. To do this I'm starting with a New Chapters Special Edition, featuring pieces written by those about to take the next big steps in their lives. We'll learn how nursery pupils feel about beginning Primary School, we have acrostics from primary seven about first year, and we'll discover what some of our form five and six leavers plan to do post-school. So, here's to the next chapter of The Columns.

- Editor Maisey Lafollette

New Beginnings: The Next Chapter

Mrs. Hudson

One of the things I have learned in thirty-six years is that young people are usually far better at embracing change than the adults around them. Every year you start new subjects, make new friends and step into the unknown, often with a confidence you may not even realise you have. Now, for the first time in a very long while, it is my turn to do the same.

After thirty-six years at the High School of Dundee I am retiring, with a real tangle of emotions: gratitude for the opportunities I have been given, pride in all this community has achieved, and a little sadness, because this school has been far more than a place of work. It is a community that shaped who I am.

What I will remember is not the meetings or the timetables. It is you. The conversations that made me think differently, the resilience you showed when things were hard, the kindness you showed one another, and the optimism you carry through the doors every day. You are, and have always been, the whole point.

I will admit to one private hope as I leave. When I started out, I did not imagine this school would ever appoint a woman as Rector, and for years I was quietly certain I was not the right person for the roles I was lucky enough to hold. I was wrong, and I would love you to learn that more quickly than I did. So many of the barriers we believe are in our way are perceived rather than real, and the most stubborn are the ones we build in our own minds. Some are real and must be challenged. But most have only the power we choose to give them. Do not hand yours that power.

I leave the school in the best possible hands! Mr Latif is exactly the right person, with exactly the right values, to lead its next chapter, and I know the whole community will get behind him as wholeheartedly as it has always got behind one and each another. And those of us stepping beyond these gates, the Class of 2026 and me among them, do so together, and forever part of the HSD family.

So, if there is one thing I would leave with you, it is this. Do not be afraid of new beginnings. The next chapter rarely looks quite the way we expect, and that is so often exactly where the most interesting stories begin. Go out into the world, use every one of your talents, and make it a better place for everyone around you.

How are you feeling about going into school?



Happy because I get to see my big brother there. -Eddie

Good because I like to go to school, Dundee High School is nice. -Luke

Good because I want to learn my letters. -Louis

Happy because my sister goes to that school. -Brodie

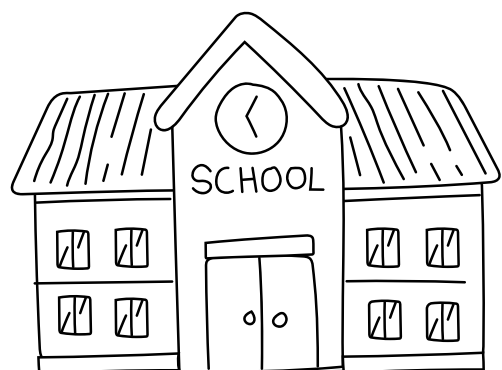
Happy because I'm going to get lunch there and my brother told me it's a yummy one. -Phoebe

Happy because it's the best to learn things. -Ava

Good because I think I'll make new friends -Arabella

Excited because my nursery friends are going. -Toby

Happy because I'll make new friends. -Struan



HSD Nursery Continued

What are you looking forward to?

To learn new things, maybe farming would be nice, also learning a different language, Chinese would be good. -Eddie

I want to make new friends and play with them. -Luke

Playing in the playground and having lunch in the big lunch hall. -
Louis

I want to join games club, there's lots of toys there. -Brodie

Playing in the playground and learn how to read all by myself. -
Phoebe

Playing outside with my new friends. -Ava

I'm wanting to do music class with Mrs. Stevenson and getting homework, I've never had homework before. -Arabella

I hope I can play football there and learn to do better drawings. -
Toby

I'll help my friends and make new ones, also I still want to play outside. -Struan



Previous Editor, Charlie Grewar

How do you begin an article on next chapters? How do you write about something That's yet to come? Why does my autocorrect insist on giving every 'that's' a capital 'T'? Can I get away with a paragraph made up entirely of questions? Why are any of you wasting your time reading this? Why am I still writing this? And what shall I have for lunch?

As far as next chapters are concerned, I'm feeling unsettlingly optimistic about things. I've accepted my uni offer, sorted accommodation, even found out there's a Twin Peaks society at the place. And I'm moving out. I can't really say how I feel about that until I see where they've put me in the uni accommodation, but I imagine I'll miss my own bed.

But...yeah, I don't know. I feel like these big changes tend not to feel as big as everyone makes them out to be. Maybe it just takes a while to sink in, or maybe we attach too much importance to the necessary changes in life in an attempt to bring some sort of structure to life, an experience which cannot be easily defined or squeezed into a neat little order. We appear to be under the impression that there are several carefully defined chapters to life and after one ends we move onto the next, each 'new horizon' an importance and singular moment of transformation. The end of high school to go to university, or college, apprenticeships, or whatever, is often seen as especially significant, being when we leave the dependancy of childhood to move out into the world and become our own beings. That's the sentimental idea anyway. In reality, you just have to look at the dozens of Daily Mail headlines screaming that '99% oF yOuNg PeOpLe LiVe At HoMe!!!!!!', to see that the move between life's chapters is far from clear cut.

Heck, even birthdays are part of this. The day you turn 17 you can drive. Nothing has changed about you more than was changed the day before, but the world has decided that it is now safe for you to start learning to drive. Birthdays are hyped up as important events, but in recent years to me they've felt rather lacklustre. Just...empty, meaningless almost. Like any other day except there's the expectation I should be excited for this one. I've been asked what I'm planning to do for my eighteenth, allegedly the most significant of birthdays, when you're now seen by society as an 'adult', and can do 'adult' things, such as being able to legally buy alcohol (god knows why I'd want to, I've not had much of the stuff but it generally tastes rank). Who knows, it may be as good as excuse as any to have a party. Of course, there are practical applications for slotting life into these neat little chapters, you wouldn't let a two-year-old drive. But I do feel that more fuss is made about these events, these 'great big changes,' than it sometimes feels like they merit. Change comes at us constantly, not once a year or on a preordained graduation, and life cannot be condensed into simply; birth, nursery, primary school, high school, university, job, retirement, death. Are there any actual inherent reasons for these or have we just invented them to categorise life and make things seem a little more...secure. To simplify life into a simple chronological line that you move along, when it's really a lot messier.

Anyway, I think this article has jumped the shark so ignore my drivel and...GOOD LUCK! With whatever you happen to be doing in life!

My Vision for The Columns 2026-27

Maisey
Lafollette

Every year when a new editor takes over The Columns, they bring new ideas and plans for the weekly paper, and this year will be no exception. Since this edition is celebrating new chapters, I thought I would share what my plans are for The Columns.

1. The Trump Files. This will be a new weekly section featuring current events from across the pond that relate to President Trump.
2. Weekly puzzle. Each week I plan to have a puzzle whether it be a crossword, word-search or riddle, this is to make The Columns more interactive with readers.
3. Club Corner. There is a wide range of co-curricular activities at HSD, so to advertise this I wish to have a small article for various clubs pupils can participate in.
4. Comic. Next year, I intend to recruit a talented artist to create a comic that will feature in The Columns.

I have several more initiatives for The Columns, but I won't reveal them all quite yet, so keep reading The Columns to learn more. In fact, if you finish this edition, you'll see one of the new additions.

Feeling excited for new languages

Opportunities

Ready for a new chapter

More freedom

Offering to join new clubs

Nervous for a big change

Enjoying time with your friends



By; Sophia Macdonald and Charlotte Johnson

Fun with new friends

Opening new doors

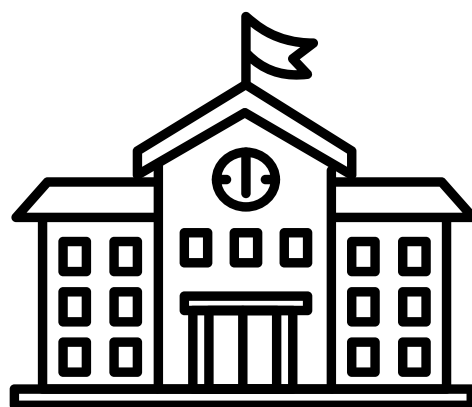
Running to class

More freedom

Overcoming the fear of F1

Never ending classes

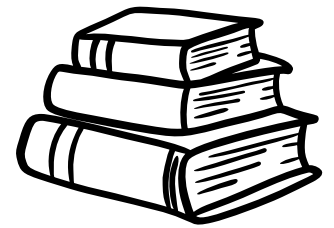
Endless possibilities



By; Iris, Emilia G, Maggie and Murray

Looking forward to :

- New subjects such as Chemistry and Biology
- Being able to go to the Library at different times throughout the day
- Being able to buy soft drinks at the lunch hall
- Moving independently around the school for different classes
- Joining different Co-curricular clubs
- Going on a variety of trips
- Meeting new people who are joining the year group
- Being taught by different teachers



Anxious about :

- Assessments, exams, essays and homework
- Busy playtimes
- Having to get their own stationery/ equipment
- Not knowing where classrooms are
- Getting lost
- New people joining the year group
- Which other children will be in their classes
- Being the youngest in the Senior Years
- Fitting in, meeting new people, changing friendships



5 Tips On How To Not Mess Up Form 5

Neil Alam

Form 5 is, in my opinion and for many others, the most important year while in school. You select your highers and those subjects are extremely important as you'll need them for Qualifications in Universities, Apprenticeships, Jobs etc. It was very much a challenging year for me, especially in contrast to F3-F4 where you learn Nat 5 subjects over two years, but in F5 you learn highers over a year.

So here are some tips for new Form 5.

TIP 1:

Don't muck about in class

It's tempting, and I admit I have done it in a few classes messing about with my friends. However, that led me to not concentrate in class properly and not finishing the work that we are supposed to do. This led me to struggling on the prelims as I didn't understand a lot of stuff. So I strongly recommend to actually listen actively in class and finish all the work you are told to do, it might make a difference.

TIP 2:

Less Co-Curriculars

We all love co-curriculars, however if there is anything getting in the way of work, it can lead you to feel overwhelmed especially if you do loads of co-curricular outside and inside of school. So try and go to some or most co-curriculars less often (if agreed upon by the person leading it, ie go every other week) if you do get overwhelmed.

TIP 3:

Go to Lunchtime Study Sessions

Lunchtime is obviously a time to take a break from all the work in class, however I found them extremely helpful, as you can get help on certain topics you are struggling at. As an example I found the Maths Drop-ins really helpful as they went through different topics each week.

TIP 4:

Non Past Paper Revision Methods

Past Papers are definitely useful, especially if you time them. However, I'd strongly recommend stuff like Flashcards for terms/information you have to remember. I found YouTube videos really useful, especially for Physics. Apps like Quizlet, and subject specific DrFrost activities are really useful as well for revision.



TIP 5:
Lock in

Highers are extremely important for University, and you really need to work hard to get the grades needed for University/Apprenticeships/Work, etc. However, if you do feel like you are struggling in some of your Higher subjects, you could always retake them for next year (if you stay on for F6) and that way you get more time to understand all the topics and exam techniques.

Overall, my tips may seem a bit basic at points, but I can assure that these will definitely help you in the long term. I wish I followed these pretty early on in Form 5, so I hope you will not make the same mistakes I have. In conclusion, lock in during Form 5 so you can have fun in Form 6.

Motivational Quotes

“Step out of the history that is holding you back. Step into the new story you are willing to create.” – Oprah Winfrey

“Never underestimate the power you have to take your life in a new direction.” – Germany Kent

“If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.”
–Dolly Parton

“Even the greatest was once a beginner. Don’t be afraid to take that first step.” – Muhammad Ali

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams .” – Eleanor Roosevelt

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” –
Dr. Seuss

Often, when thinking about new beginnings, we think about the big things. For example, the transition between primary school and secondary school, or between secondary school and adulthood, or maybe moving house, or even country. However, the smallest things can also be used as an excuse for a new chapter of life.

Every time you listen to a new song, read a new book, watch a new film, it gives you a fresh perspective on life. Every experience we have shapes our minds, and our minds are what really allow us to begin a new chapter.

Those of you who keep up with pop music will likely know that Olivia Rodrigo's new album, 'you seem pretty sad for a girl so in love', is coming out on the 12th of June.

Two songs have already been released from it: 'drop dead' and 'the cure'. These songs have conflicting moods; 'drop dead' has a fun, upbeat vibe, as Rodrigo sings about new love (a new chapter of its own), while 'the cure' laments the realisation that love cannot heal every wound or insecurity. Listening to either of these songs might give a fresh viewpoint on love, but it doesn't have to be Olivia Rodrigo. A piece of music at a school concert, or on the radio, or a new release by your favourite artist can give you enough energy to change a way that you think and open yourself up to other viewpoints, and start a new chapter of your life.

The changing seasons can also mark the beginning of a new chapter. At the beginning of spring, the more productive among us may take part in a spring clean, and organise their rooms or houses. Despite the current weather, summer typically brings an association with light and warmth, and you can reinvent yourself as a more positive-thinking person to go along with the climate. Autumn brings with it the 'downtown girl' aesthetic; cozy jumpers, tea and coffee, and watching Gilmore Girls while scrolling Pinterest. With the new school year having just started, motivation is the highest it will be all year, and promises are made that *this* school year is the year you will focus. Maybe when the 2026/27 school year starts in August, you can use it as an excuse to turn the page and start a new chapter of your life, where you're more confident or more studious, kinder or wiser, whatever you'd like to be, you can become it.

Fictional books, films and TV shows can be just a source of entertainment, but they can also give you a new perspective on something you might not have thought about before. Every time you read or watch something, you are consuming information that can change your mindset forever. Maybe you see something in a character that you connect with, or that you'd like to achieve. Perhaps the setting inspires you to travel around the globe, or the plot helps you realise a goal you'd like to achieve in life. Fictional worlds contain a plethora of opportunities for you to realise something about either yourself, or the world, that can encourage you to start a new chapter in your life.

So, in conclusion, don't disregard the smaller parts of life as meaningless, as they might be the very thing that shakes up your world and allows you a fresh start and a new chapter.



F5 Leaver, James Brown



While I am leaving school a year early, that doesn't mean that I haven't thoroughly enjoyed my years at the High school of Dundee and I have made numerous memories over the past 7 years-such as the classics trip to Italy-but I am eager to see what lies ahead. I believe that I have earned the skills and knowledge necessary to adapt university life.

Prior to Form 5, I was already thinking about applying for some kind of Engineering subject-due to how Engineering acts as a combination of my stronger subjects-maths and physics- and because Engineering is all about finding innovative solutions for problems which may or may not exist in the future.

Over the Autumn I visited open days at Strathclyde, Aberdeen, Glasgow, St Andrews, Edinburgh, and Heriot Watt. Of these, my 3 main candidates were Edinburgh, Heriot Watt, and St Andrews, all of which were not too far away from home and had lots of flexibility in moving between degrees. Heriot Watt had shown a variety societies relating to Engineering such as their Aero-watt and HW-rail, where they design aircraft/trains and compete in competitions.

While I did have a few hiccups during the UCAS application process, it did feel a little rushed, due to only starting the application process towards the end of September, however thanks to the clear guidelines I was given from the website and from my peers, it went well in the end. I think my past experiences and activities – such as taking part in the Air Cadets or my volunteering at Dundee Central Library – both helped make myself stand out from other similarly performing applicants. In the end I received conditional offers from Heriot Watt, St Andrews, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen.

While initially I was thinking of studying Engineering in university, as my first choice, I have decided to choose Physics at St. Andrews, as my firm choice, and Aerospace Engineering at Herriot Watt as my insurance choice. Physics leaves the doors open for me to study engineering, and other subjects in the future, rather than specialising too soon. It would also provide a smaller hurdle to jump through as I adapt to the new curriculum.

I've heard great things about student life at St Andrews, how the entire town acts as a campus, and about the different traditions of the university- such as foam fights on Raisin Monday. I hope I meet the grade requirements, as I cannot wait to see how physics scales up to university level. While I do live near St Andrews, I plan to stay in student halls, to experience student life to its fullest. I am not too sure whether or not I should join the University Air Squadron, but the university also offers other sorts of societies-such as board games and gaming societies which I might want to take part in. I'll see how things will go at university before deciding if I should study beyond undergraduate degrees.

Mrs. Hudson's Dream Dinner Party

Maisey
Lafollette

I was inspired by Lucy Smith's '7 Questions for Staff,' and since she's leaving, I decided to introduce 'A Dream Dinner Party.' The rules are simple, the party has five guests; they can be dead or alive, fictional or nonfictional, human or otherwise. To kickstart the new addition to The Columns, I've asked Mrs. Hudson to be the first participant. -Would you like an invite to this dinner party?

- 1. My Granny.** She gave me the rule I have lived my whole life by: never say what if. Everything that followed, every role I was quietly certain I was not ready for, traces back to her. Alongside my Mum, she also nurtured my passion for Music from the start and made me believe in me! I would give anything to sit her down and tell her where her advice took me.
- 2. Nicola Benedetti.** Because music is the beating heart of any good school. A Scot of genuine brilliance who won BBC Young Musician of the Year as a teenager, founded a charity devoted to music education for young people, and became the first Scot and first woman to direct the Edinburgh International Festival. She would understand, without a word from me, exactly why our Musical performances reduce me to tears every time!
- 3. William Wallace.** I am claiming him, with a straight face, as a former pupil. Tradition holds that Wallace was schooled here at HSD, and that a confrontation in the town set him on the path to leading Scotland's resistance. Whether the records would entirely agree is another matter, but the spirit is exactly right: a man who refused to accept that the barrier in front of him could not be moved. The patron saint, you might say, of never saying what if.
- 4. Professor John Hudson.** My husband, a medieval legal historian, and the cleverest person I know. He has spent his career at St Andrews making the past feel alive rather than archived, which is the very thing I fell in love with about history, and arguably about him! After a lifetime of sharing the daily realities of my school with him, it would be wonderful to host the dinner party (maybe I'd have to do the cooking for once!) and simply enjoy his company at it.
- 5. Sir Ken Robinson.** Few people made the case for creativity in education as wittily or as persuasively as he did. His argument that schools too often squander the very talents young people arrive with, and that everyone has an element worth finding, sits at the centre of everything I believe about education. I would happily hand him the floor, though I suspect he would have us all laughing rather than lecturing.
- 6. Princess Diana.** For her extraordinary instinct for empathy, her willingness to sit with people who were suffering and simply be present with them, and the courage to step outside the role she was handed and be seen as herself. She understood, as I have tried to, that people remember not what you say but how you made them feel. She would bring warmth, and probably a good deal of mischief, to the table.



Have a Relaxing Weekend.
-The Columns Team

Your Editor - Maisey Lafollette